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Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3903 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Alaska Project Nos. 11597 and 11599]

Ketchikan Public Utilities (Whitman Lake and Connell Lake Hydroelectric Projects); Notice of Scoping Meetings and Site Visits and Soliciting Scoping Comments

February 11, 1999.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) regulations allow applicants to prepare their own Environmental Assessment (EA) for hydropower projects and file it with the Commission along with their license application as part of the applicant-prepared EA (APEA) process. Ketchikan Public Utilities (KPU) received approval from the Commission to prepare an EA for the proposed Whitman and Connell Lakes Hydroelectric Projects, No. 11597 and No. 11599, respectively.

KPU will hold three scoping meetings, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, to identify the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA. At the scoping meetings, KPU will: (1) summarize the environmental issues tentatively identified for analysis in the EA; (2) outline any resources they believe would not require a detailed analysis; (3) identify reasonable alternatives to be addressed in the EA; (4) solicit from the meeting participants all available information, especially quantitative data, on the resources at issue; and (5) encourage statements from experts and the public on issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

Scoping Meetings

The times and locations of the three scoping meetings are:

Agency Scoping Meetings

March 3, 1999

Whitman Lake, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM,
Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia
Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska

March 3, 1999

Connell Lake, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM,
Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia
Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska

Public Scoping Meeting

March 3, 1999

Whitman and Connell Lakes, 7:00 PM
to 10:00 PM, Ted Ferry Civic
Center, 888 Venetia Avenue,
Ketchikan, Alaska

All interested individuals, organizations, and agencies are invited and encouraged to attend either or both meetings to assist in identifying and clarifying the scope of environmental issues that should be analyzed in the EA.

To help focus discussions at the meetings, KPU prepared and distributed an Initial Stage Consultation Document (ISCD) and a Scoping Document in January 1999. Copies of the ISCD and the Scoping Document can be obtained by calling Mr. Don Thompson of Wescorp, KPU's agent at (206) 275-1000. Copies of both documents will also be available at all scoping meetings.

Site Visit

For those who intend to participate in scoping, KPU will also conduct site visits to the proposed Whitman Lake and Connell Lake projects on Thursday, March 4, 1999, if sufficient interest exists. Those attending the site visit should arrange their own transportation and meet at Connell Lake dam at 9:00 A.M. We will continue to Ward Cove and the Whitman Lake hatchery by vehicle. From Whitman Creek, those who wish may hike the 0.5 miles up the hatchery water supply pipe to Whitman dam. Hikers may need to sign a waiver of liability. Because of the remoteness and difficult access to the Whitman dam site, those attending the site visit should be physically fit and must wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Participants must provide their own sack lunches. Those wishing to visit the project sites should notify Mr. Don Thompson at (206) 275-1000, no later than Feb 28, 1999.

Meeting Procedures

The meetings will be conducted according to the procedures used at Commission scoping meetings. Because this meeting will be a NEPA scoping meeting under the APEA process, the Commission will not conduct a NEPA scoping meeting after the application and draft EA are filed with the Commission.

Both scoping meetings will be recorded by a stenographer or tape recorder, and will become part of the formal record of the proceedings for this project.

those who choose not to speak during the scoping meetings may instead submit written comments on the project.

Written comments must be submitted by May 3, 1999, and should be mailed to: Mr. Don Thompson, Wescorp, 3035 Island Crest Way, Suite 200, Mercer Island, Washington 98040. All correspondence should show one of the following captions on the first page:

Scoping Comments, Whitman Lake
Hydroelectric Project, Project No.

11597, Alaska, or

Scoping Comments, Connell Lake
Hydroelectric Project, Project No.

11599, Alaska.

For further information please contact Don Thompson at (206) 275-1000, or E-mail thompson@wescorp.net, or Carter Kruse of the Commission at (202) 219-3023, or E-mail carter.kruse@ferc.fed.us.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3899 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER99-1035-000 and EL99-34-00]

Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Notice of Initiation of Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

February 11, 1999.

Take notice that on February 10, 1999, the Commission issued an order in the above-indicated dockets initiating a proceeding in Docket No. EL99-34-000 under section 206 of the Federal Power Act.

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL99-34-000 will be 60 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3953 Filed 2-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP99-193-000]

Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

February 11, 1999.

Take notice that on February 3, 1999, Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (Texas Eastern), 5400 Westheimer Court, P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, filed in Docket No. CP99-193-000